

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01324 061932Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3283

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1324

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S TRIP - RECOMMENDED ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: VAKY/COX TELCON OF FEBRUARY 4/76.

1. QUOTE IT IS BOTH A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE IN BOGOTA. IN A PERSONAL SENSE, I LOOK FORWARD TO RENEWING MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ, WHOM I MET DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST SEPTEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, OF COURSE, IS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF LONGER STANDING, WITH WHOM I HAD THE SATISFACTION OF WORKING DURING THE 1974 TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE.

2. BEYOND THE PERSONAL AND CURRENT, HOWEVER, I REGARD MY VISIT TO COLOMBIA AS PART OF A MUCH LONGER PROCESS THAT BEGAN MORE THAN A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO WHEN THE FIRST UNITED STATES AMBASADOR ARRIVED IN THIS CITY. IN AN AGE WHEN MUCH ATTENTION IS DEVOTED TO NEW ALLIGNMENTS AND GROUPINGS OF NATIONS, TO TALK OF "THIRD WORLD" INTERESTS AND "NORTH-SOUTH" DIALOGUES, IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO OVERLOOK THE LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION WITHIN THE AMERICAS. FROM THE DAYS OF BOLIVAR AND MONROE OUR SHARED HISTORY, OUR SIMILAR ASPIRATIONS AND OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS HAVE HELPED TO FORGE AN INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.

3. IT WOULD BE IDLE TO PRETEND THAT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN DIFFERENCES DURING THOS HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, JUST AS IT WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING TO OVERLOOK THE DIFFERENCES THAT CONFRONT US TODAY. FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THOSE DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, IS THE TRADITION OF WORKING OUT OUR PROBLEMS WITHIN THE HIMISPHERE. THAT TRADITION HAS BROUGHT THE AMERICAS INTACT THROUGH THE MOST
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01324 061932Z

TRYING TESTS OF HISTORY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR INTER-AMERICAN

SYSTEM WILL PROVE EQUAL TO THE CHALLENGES THAT FACE US TODAY. IT
WILL BE MY PRIVILEGE, DURING MY STAY HERE, TO JOIN WITH PRESIDENT
LOPEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO IN SEEKING, ONCE AGAIN, METH-
ODS OF COOPERATION WITHIN OUR COMMON FRAMEWORK. END QUOTE.
VAKY

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